(d) The Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth, which includes, *inter-alia*, delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc. In the Budget 2008-09, the Government has also reduced the excise duty across the board from 16% to 14% to boost the domestic demand for the manufacturing industry.

In addition, Government has also announced several measures to assist and promote export oriented industries affected by the rupee appreciation, which includes enhancement of the Duty entitlement Pass Book (DEPB); reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10%; enhancement of the rates of duty drawback; interest subvention of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax; raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana etc.

Old forts in the grip of Maoists

*293. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that grand forts associated with the warrior-ruler in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, namely Rohtas Fort and Kalinjar Fort respectively, are in the grip of Maoist extremists as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such old forts which are tourist attraction are in the grip of Maoists and neither the Union Government nor State Governments have taken any steps to get them free from the clutches of Maoists; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to available information, these forts are not in the grip of Maoists.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Vocational Training Institutes for women

*294. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Vocational Training Institutes to cater to the vocational training needs exclusively for women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to set up such an institute in various part of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when the said institute is likely to be set up?